

Appl. Serial No. 10/769,178
Amendment Dated May 12, 2006
Reply to Action mailed January 12, 2006

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block, comprising:

a ~~first DC-coupled~~ transconductance stage comprising MOSFET amplification devices operably coupled to produce a first differential current from a differential input voltage based on a first bias voltage;

a ~~second DC-coupled~~ transconductance stage comprising MOSFET amplification devices operably coupled to produce a second differential current based on the differential input voltage and a second bias voltage; ~~wherein an output current of the class AB voltage-current converter is a sum of the first differential current and the second differential current; [[and]]~~

a third transconductance stage comprising MOSFET amplification devices operably coupled to produce a third differential current based on the differential input voltage and a third bias voltage, wherein output current of the class AB transconductance block is a sum of the first differential current, the second differential current and the third differential current; and

a resistor ladder operable as a biasing circuit operably coupled to produce the first bias voltage, the second bias voltage and the third bias voltage, wherein the first bias voltage is greater than the second bias voltage and the third bias voltage, wherein the second bias voltage is greater than the third bias voltage and wherein each bias voltage for each of the transconductance stage is produced from an output end of a resistor of the resistor ladder.

~~biasing circuit operably coupled to produce the first bias voltage and the secondary bias voltage, wherein the first bias voltage is greater than the secondary bias voltage.~~

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2. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current ~~converter~~ of claim 1, wherein the first transconductance stage further comprises:

a first DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a first leg of the differential input voltage and the first bias voltage; and

a second DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a second leg of the differential input voltage and the first bias voltage, wherein the second transistor is operably coupled to the first transistor such that the first transistor produces a first leg of the first differential current and the second transistor produces a second leg of the first differential current.

3. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current ~~converter~~ of claim 1, wherein the second transconductance stage further comprises:

a first DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a first leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage; and

a second DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a second leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage, wherein the second transistor is operably coupled to the first transistor such that the first transistor produces a first leg of the secondary differential current and the second transistor produces a second leg of the secondary differential current.

4. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current ~~converter~~ of claim 3 further including a third transconductance stage, the third transconductance stage further comprising:

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a first DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a first leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage; and

a second DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a second leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage, wherein the second transistor is operably coupled to the first transistor such that the first transistor produces a first leg of the secondary differential current and the second transistor produces a second leg of the secondary differential current.

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5. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current converter of claim 4 further including a fourth transconductance stage, the fourth transconductance stage further comprising:

a first DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a first leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage; and

a second DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a second leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage, wherein the second transistor is operably coupled to the first transistor such that the first transistor produces a first leg of the secondary differential current and the second transistor produces a second leg of the secondary differential current.

6. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current converter of claim 5 further including a fifth transconductance stage, the fifth transconductance stage further comprising:

a first DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a first leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage; and

a second DC-coupled transistor operably coupled to receive a combination of a second leg of the differential input voltage and the secondary bias voltage, wherein the second transistor is operably coupled to the first transistor such that the first transistor produces a first leg of the secondary differential current and the second transistor produces a second leg of the secondary differential current.

7. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block class AB voltage-to-current converter of claim 1, wherein the biasing circuit further comprises a reference current source operably coupled to a current mirror to produce a bias signal.

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8. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block ~~class AB voltage-to-current converter~~ of claim 1, further including:

a biasing circuit, wherein the biasing circuit further comprises:

a first reference voltage source operably coupled to produce the first bias voltage;

a second reference voltage source operably coupled to produce the secondary bias voltage;

a first resistive pair operably coupled to provide the first bias voltage to the first transconductance stage; and

a second resistive pair operably coupled to provide the secondary bias voltage to the secondary transconductance stage.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block ~~class AB voltage-to-current converter~~ of claim [[9]] 1 further comprises:

a fourth transconductance stage operably coupled to produce a fourth differential current based on the differential input voltage and a fourth bias voltage, wherein output current of the class AB voltage current converter is the sum of the first differential current, the secondary differential current, and the third differential current, and the fourth differential current wherein the biasing circuit produces the fourth bias voltage, wherein the third bias voltage is greater than the fourth bias voltage.

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11. (Currently Amended) The class AB transconductance block ~~class AB voltage-to-current converter~~ of claim 10 further comprises:

a fifth transconductance stage operably coupled to produce a fifth differential current based on the differential input voltage and a fifth bias voltage, wherein output current of the class AB voltage current converter is the sum of the first differential current, the second differential current, the third differential current, the fourth differential current and the fifth differential current, wherein the biasing circuit produces the fifth bias voltage, wherein the fourth bias voltage is greater than the fifth bias voltage.

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12. (Currently Amended) A ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block, comprising:

a first DC-coupled transconductance stage operably coupled to produce a first differential current from a differential input voltage based on a first bias voltage;

a second DC-coupled transconductance stage operably coupled to produce a second differential current based on the differential input voltage and a second bias voltage, wherein output current of the class AB transconductance block ~~voltage-current converter~~ is a sum of the first differential current and the secondary differential current;

~~biasing circuit operably coupled to produce a bias current;~~

a resistor ladder comprising a plurality of resistors wherein at least one resistor is coupled between each transconductance stage of the ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block; and

wherein each transconductance stage is biased to a different voltage level relative to all other transconductance stages[; and]]

~~wherein an output transconductance signal is a sum of each of the transconductance signals produced by each of the transconductance stages.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block of claim 12 further comprising a third transconductance stage.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block of claim 13 further comprising a fourth transconductance stage.

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16. (Currently Amended) The ~~DC-coupled~~ class AB transconductance block of claim 15 further comprising at least five transconductance stages.

Claims 17-21. (Cancelled)